

**Town of Whitingham**

**Office of the Selectboard**

**MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 8, 2017**

*These Minutes shall be accepted into the public record (with any corrections noted) at a future meeting of the Whitingham Selectboard.*

The Whitingham Selectboard held a regular meeting on Wednesday, November 8, 2017 at 7:30pm in the Selectboard Office of the Municipal Center, 2948 VT Route 100, Jacksonville, VT.

Selectboard members present: Chair, Keith Bronson; Vice Chair, Allan Twitchell; Members Greg Brown and Robin Kingsley.

Others present: Gig Zboray, Selectboard Office Administrator; James Valente and Adam Waite, Town Attorneys; Thammasorn Ziemer, resident.

**Call to Order. Additions or Changes to Agenda**

Keith Bronson called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. There were two additions to the agenda; discuss the fuel tank at the school and the railing at the Municipal Center. Due to executive session we did not have a budget work session, only medical insurance was discussed. The attorneys arrived early so the schedule was rearranged a little.

**Hearing of visitors** None.

**Resident requests permission to install playground equipment near basketball court**

Thammasorn Ziemer requested permission to install a small, backyard size piece of playground equipment near the basketball court at the Municipal Center, stating it would be professionally installed and the ground would be prepared in the proper fashion (wood chips). Gig will contact Wade Masure to get a list of safety requirements for insurance purposes. Greg Brown asks who will maintain this equipment? Ms. Ziemer indicated that she would raise funds now to maintain the equipment in the future. Concerns were discussed about the size of the equipment and the small area available. Gig to check with VLCT if we can put up a “use at your own risk” sign.

**Education Funding Litigation**

**A motion was made by Greg Brown to find that premature general public knowledge regarding the town’s education funding litigation would clearly place the town at a substantial disadvantage if its legal strategy was made public, seconded by Allan Twitchell, all in favor with Keith Bronson casting his vote.**

**A motion was made by Greg Brown to enter into executive session to discuss education funding litigation under the provisions of Title 1, Section 313(a)(1)(A) of the Vermont Statutes to include Gig Zboray, James Valente and Adam Waite, seconded by Allan Twitchell, all in favor with Keith Bronson casting his vote.**

With no decisions made Executive Session was exited at 8:38pm.

If and when expert assistance is needed the Board discussed and approved of the attorneys making their own decisions of who would be best for their specific needs and to hire as needed.

**Transfer Station/WSWMD**

Review letter received from ANR and sign letter in response. Review and sign newly revised Termination Agreement. Composting: Greg Brown found 4 five-gallon buckets with lids for compost. Jen Herzig mentioned that if we used these smaller collection bins local chicken owners might take the compost to feed to chickens or compost in their own piles. Gig will research what other towns are charging for compost collection. The Board approved of additional hours for Jen Herzig to attend any SWIP preparation meetings that might be needed.

**Medical insurance review**

Marylee Putnam provided a full summary of the medical insurance options. Last year’s Minutes (12/28/16) indicate that it was decided that future deductibles will be split with the town: for family plan/parent child plan the town will pay up to $12,000 deductible, any deductible increase over that amount will be split 60/40 (employee pays 60%) thinking deductibles would increase. However, the deductible actually decreased for 2018 so this formula would put more cost on the town.

The Selectboard decided that employees would be responsible for the last $1,500 of the deductible for a family plan and $750 for an individual plan, same as last year.

**Approval of Payables Warrant – November 9, 2017**

**A motion was made by Greg Brown to approve Payables Warrant W1820 dated November 9, 2017, seconded by Allan Twitchell, all in favor with Keith Bronson casting his vote.**

**Approval of Payroll Warrant – November 9, 2017**

**A motion was made by Robin Kingsley to approve Payroll Warrant W1819 dated November 9, 2017, seconded by Greg Brown, all in favor with Keith Bronson casting his vote.**

**Approval of Minutes of October 25, 2017**

**A motion was made by Robin Kingsley to approve the Minutes of October 25, 2017 as written, seconded by Greg Brown, all in favor with Keith Bronson casting his vote.**

**Other business / Office Administrator – as needed**

1. Minor flooding the Municipal Center after the heavy rainfall on Sunday & Monday, October 29th & 30th. The Selectboard Office had a small puddle between the entry door and the window facing the fire house; the back storage room and Pete’s office had a completely wet floor. Stan’s office is raised up and didn’t get wet.
2. Two outstanding zoning issues (building without permits). Both offenders have been reached and both agreed to submit permit applications.
3. Next meeting which was rescheduled to Monday, November 20th due to Thanksgiving has now been canceled. **A motion was made by Keith Bronson to appoint Robin Kingsley and/or Keith Bronson to sign the warrants for the next accounts payable and payroll period, seconded by Allan Twitchell, all in favor.**
4. Railing in front of Municipal Center was hit by a driver and severely damaged. Stanley Janovsky should get the rail fixed. Gig should find out who crashed into it.
5. Fuel Tank – Allen Twitchell ordered a 500-gallon fuel tank for the school emergency generator at a cost of approximately $3,000 (to arrive in about 2 weeks). Greg Brown is upset that during all the school construction the problem with the fuel tank was never resolved and the new law banning underground tanks did not come up at the time. The school is no longer a town entity due to consolidation. Robin Kingsley suggested charging the school an annual fee for use of the generator. The Board decided that the Town will not fill up the tank. If there is a disaster Stanley Janovsky can order the fuel tank filled. If the school wants the backup power, they must fill the tank and keep it full. Fuel must be treated for winter use. Gig will draft a letter to that affect. Keith Bronson can sign the letter.

**Adjourn**

**A motion to adjourn was made by Allan Twitchell, seconded by Karl Twitchell, all in favor with Keith Bronson casting his vote.**

Keith Bronson adjourned the meeting at 9:22pm.

Respectfully submitted,

~Gig Zboray